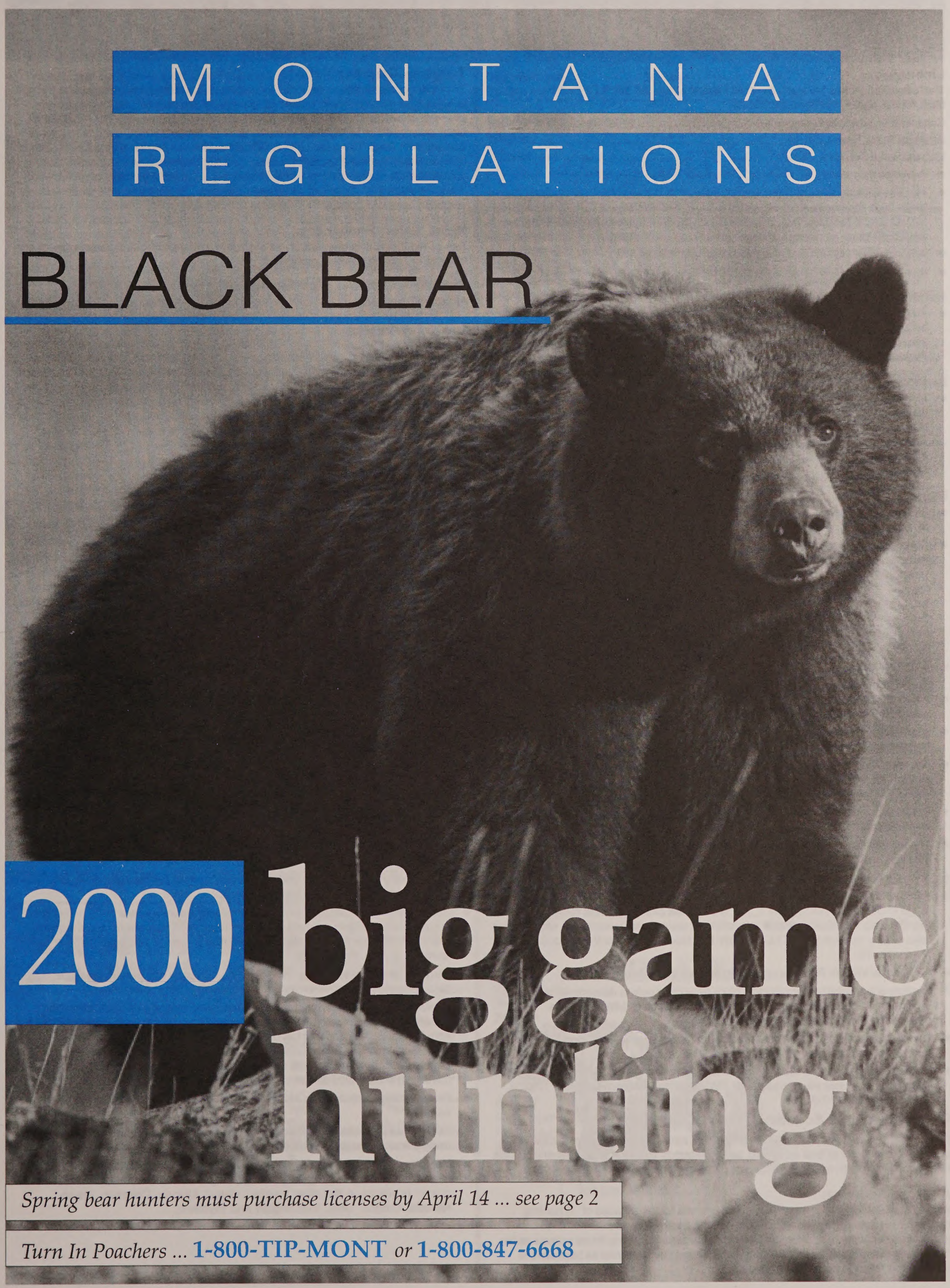
MONTANA REGULATIONS

BLACK BEAR



2000 big game hunting

Spring bear hunters must purchase licenses by April 14 ... see page 2

Turn In Poachers ... **1-800-TIP-MONT** *or* **1-800-847-6668**

Licensing & Regulations

Licensing

The following licenses are available at all Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and most license agents throughout the state.

Conservation License (Prerequisite) ..... $4.00 Res & $5.00 NonRes
Resident Black Bear License ..... $ 15.00
Nonresident Black Bear License $120.00

- A hunter may purchase only one black bear license per year.
- Hunters wishing to hunt black bear in the spring season must purchase their black bear license by April 14. LICENSES PURCHASED AFTER APRIL 14 ARE VALID ONLY IN THE FALL SEASON AND MUST BE PURCHASED BY AUGUST 31.
- A hunter may legally take one black bear per license year.
- It is illegal to harvest/take a female black bear with young or individual cubs.

Hunting Hours

- Authorized hunting hours for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. Complete sunrise/sunset tables as adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission are available at all FWP offices and most license agents.

Landowner Permission

- Montana law requires that big game hunters must have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before hunting big game animals on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not. Hunters should secure landowner permission well before applying for a special license/permit to hunt on these lands. It is recommended that hunters receive written permission from the landowner or landowner's agent.

Regulations

- All Bear Management Units (BMUs) listed shall be open to hunting of black bear of either sex.
- Carcass/Hide Tag Clarification: Successful black bear hunters are required to immediately validate the hide tag and attach it to the hide. After the hide is removed from the carcass, the carcass tag must be separated from the hide tag and attached to the carcass. Within five (5) days of harvesting a black bear (or within five (5) days of arriving at a trailhead in the backcountry areas), the successful hunter must present to a Montana FWP official the complete bear hide (with proof of sex remaining naturally attached) and skull for purposes of inspection and removal of a tooth (for aging).
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the hide. The following are considered lawful evidence of sex: males:testicles or baculum; females:vulva.
- A hunter harvesting a black bear must, if required by the department, physically go back to the kill site for inspection.
- It is illegal to bait bears or to hunt bears with dogs. No scents may be used to attract black bears.
- Hunter orange is required for all bear hunters. Any person hunting or accompanying hunters as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent material above the waist, visible at all times.
- It is unlawful to sell or purchase any part of a black bear except as allowed by the laws of Montana.
- The penalty for the unlawful sale may be a fine of $10,000 and/or imprisonment in the state prison for a term of one year.
- The sale or purchase of hides, heads or mounts of lawfully killed black bear is legal.
- All Wildlife Management Areas, unless otherwise posted, with big game winter range in administrative regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are closed to public entry from the day following the end of general deer/elk/bear season, or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year. EXCEPTION: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10.
- All National Wildlife Refuges are closed to black bear hunting.
- Hunters are prohibited from wasting black bear meat unless determined to contain trichinella. No replacement license will be issued for black bear which are determined to contain trichinella (ARM12.3.404).
- Definition of parts of a black bear that are considered suitable for food: All four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstraps.
- Trichinella Testing - This testing is optional and free-of-charge. Send one-third of the tongue or equal size muscle tissue to: FWP Wildlife Research Lab, Box 173220, Bozeman, MT 59717-3220.

Recorded Animal Sounds:

It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals." (MCA 87-3-108)

Airplane Spotting:

Aircraft may not be used to locate big game animals for the purpose of: 1) hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; 2) providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne. A hunting day is defined as between the earliest and latest legal shooting hours.

Two-way Communication:

Two-way communication may not be used to: 1) hunt big game animals as defined in MCA 87-2-101(8) ("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture"), OR 2) avoid game checking stations, department enforcement personnel, or to facilitate unlawful activity. When hunting mountain lions or bobcats with dogs, this rules applies when hounds are placed on tracks in a district open to lion or bobcat harvest. The rule shall not be interpreted to prohibit the possession or use of two-way radios for safety or other legitimate purposes, nor does it prohibit the use of radio-tracking equipment to locate hounds when hunting mountain lions or bobcats.

Night Vision Equipment:

Use of night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game is prohibited.

Enforcement Of Area Closures On Public Land:

All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season.

Recreational Use of State Land:

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from FWP license agents, is required to conduct all recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state school trust land. Pamphlets which provide information regarding the rules, regulations and restrictions governing these activities on state school trust land are available from FWP license agents, FWP offices and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 1625 11th Avenue, Helena MT 59620

(406)444-2074.

HUNTING LAWS & REGULATIONS

Basic Hunting Laws:

- Hunters or a person in possession of a game animal or game animal parts are prohibited from wasting or rendering unfit for human consumption, any part of a game animal, game bird, or game fish that is "defined as suitable for food." For big game animals excluding mountain lions, all of the four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstrap are considered suitable for food. A person harvesting a black bear or mountain lion is prohibited from abandoning the head or hide in the field.
- Hunters are prohibited from shooting on, from, or across the right-of-way of a publicly maintained road which is open to vehicular traffic. The right-of-way includes the road, shoulders, berms and borrow pits and generally extends from fenceline to fenceline along fenced roadways.
- Hunters are prohibited from shooting or attempting to shoot any game animal or game bird from any motorized vehicle (car, truck, boat, snowmobile, motorcycle, all terrain vehicle, airplane, etc.) Even if the vehicle is not moving, hunters must be off or out of the vehicle.
- Hunters may in some instances drive off established roads and trails to retrieve game. In all cases, when on private lands, hunters must first obtain permission from the landowner. In the case of public lands, the policy or law varies. BLM public lands are open to motorized travel unless designated closed. On National Forest lands, restrictions to motorized travel are described on Travel Plan maps available at local U. S. Forest Service offices . On National Wildlife Refuges, all off-road travel is prohibited. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.
- Hunters may not use a motorized vehicle or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral or harass wildlife except predators.
- Hunters are prohibited from hunting or taking any game animals by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight or other artificial light, trap, snare, scent stations, bait or salt lick, nor may any such aforementioned device to entrap or entice game animals be used, made or set.
- Youths under 14 years of age must be in the company of a parent, legal guardian or other responsible adult when carrying or using firearms for any reason.
- Hunters may possess, transport, sell or purchase naturally shed antlers or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been unlawfully or accidentally killed. Roadkilled animals have not died from natural causes and the carcass or parts of protected or regulated species may not be salvaged or possessed. It is illegal to possess a sheep head picked up in the wild.
- Party hunting is not legal in Montana; each hunter must shoot his/her own animal.
- Hunters are prohibited from loaning or transferring their license to another person or using a license issued to another person.
- Montana is a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. Violation of Montana laws or regulations leading to loss of privileges in Montana may also result in the loss of privileges in the other member states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Black Bear - There is no grizzly bear hunting season.

- Transporting Big Game: If you are transporting game or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form. Contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-453-5790 or FAX 406-453-3657.

Hunter Education for Firearm and Archery

- Resident hunters 12-17 years of age are required by law to have a Montana Hunter Education Certificate of Competency in the safe handling of firearms before they may purchase a hunting license. The Certificate of Competency is awarded to resident youths who have successfully completed Montana's Hunter Education Program. Duplicate Montana Hunter Education certificates may be obtained by contacting any FWP regional office or the Hunter Education Office in Helena (406-444-3188).
- New residents of Montana 12-17 years of age need to check with their local FWP office to determine if their out-of-state hunter education certificate can be transferred to a Montana Hunter Education Certificate. Regardless, new residents are encouraged to complete the Montana Hunter Education Course to increase their knowledge of Montana's hunting laws and practices.
- Non-resident youths 12-17 years of age are required by law to submit a copy of their home state hunter education certificate verifying successful completion of the course when applying for any hunting license in Montana.
- Montana law requires members of the armed forces and their dependents stationed in Montana to present a Montana Hunter Education Certificate or similar certificate from any state or province when purchasing any Montana hunting license.

MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Within five (5) days of harvesting a black bear (or within five days of arriving at a trailhead in backcountry areas) the successful hunter must present to a Montana FWP official the complete bear hide (with proof of sex remaining naturally attached) and skull for the purpose of inspection and removal of a tooth (for aging).
- See SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SPRING BLACK BEAR HUNTING IN Bear Management Units (BMU) 510 & 520.

GENERAL SEASONS

100 SERIES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

	Apr. 15 - May 15 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26
Exceptions	
103, 106, 107	Apr. 15 - May 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26

200 SERIES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

	Apr. 15 - May 15 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26
Exceptions:	
240, 216	Apr. 15 - May 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26

Deer/Elk/Lion District 282 (portion of Bear Management Unit 280) - valid Sept. 15 - Nov. 10

300 SERIES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

300	Apr. 15 - May 15 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26
301, 317	Apr. 15 - May 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26
316 & 341	Apr. 15 - Jun. 15 Sept. 6 - Nov. 26

Gallatin Closed Area (portion of Bear Management Unit 341) - buffer zone adjacent to Yellowstone National Park closed to all hunting of black bear.

Deckard Flats - Eagle Creek portion of Bear Management Unit 341 as posted, subject to closure of all hunting on 24 hour notice.

319	Apr. 15 - May 31 Oct. 1 - Nov. 26

400 SERIES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

	Apr. 15 - May 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 26

500 SERIES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

Bear Management Unit	Seasons Opens-Closes	Total Quota	Female Subquota
580	Apr. 15 - May 31	no quota	
510	Apr. 15 - May 31	9	3
520	Apr. 15 - May 31	17	5
Fall Season:			
580	Oct. 1 - Nov. 26	no quota	
510	Oct. 22 - Nov. 26	no quota	
520	Oct. 22 - Nov. 26	no quota	

When the quota or sub-quota is reached in the Bear Management Unit the black bear season for that area will close upon 48 hours notice, but no later than last date of season shown in the regulations.

Any person taking a black bear during the spring season in Bear Management Units 510 or 520 must personally report their black bear kill within 48 hours to a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks official in administrative Region 5 and must personally present the hide (with proof of sex remaining naturally attached) and skull within 5 days to a Montana FWP official residing in Region 5 for purposes of inspection, recording sex and removing a tooth for aging. The hide and head must be retained even though damaged.

- ATTENTION: It is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of season status. Current spring black bear harvest information for Region 5 may be obtained by calling the 24 hour information line 1-406-247-2970 for touch tone phones, or 1-406-247-2940 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday for rotary phones.

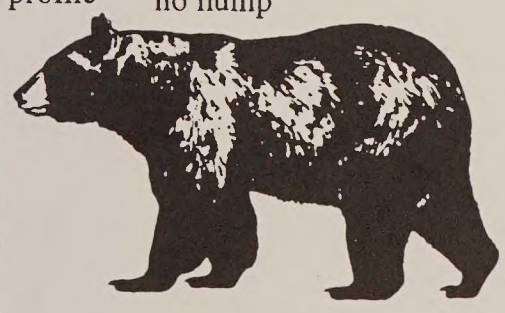
BEAR IDENTIFICATION

look for a combination of characteristics... color and size are misleading

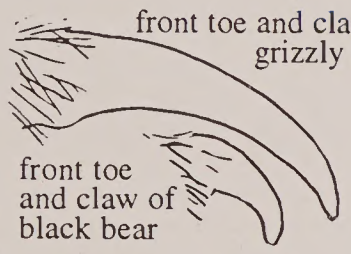
BLACK BEAR

straight face profile

no hump

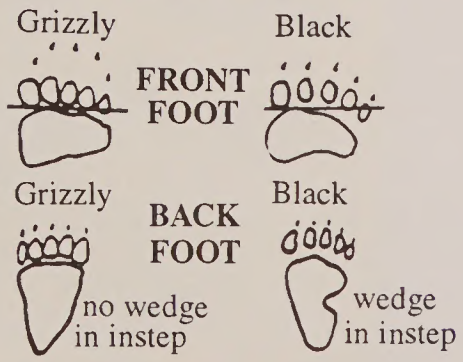


shorter, darker claws



Claws of adult grizzlies are rarely less than 1 3/4" long.

Claws of black bears seldom exceed 1 1/2".



GRIZZLY BEAR

dish face profile

hump

ruff of long hair in spring and fall

longer, lighter claws

Bear Map

Map only intended as a guide - please refer to the legal descriptions in this document for actual boundaries

Bear Map

TURN IN POACHERS

CALL **1-800-TIP-MONT** (847-6668)
WITH THIS INFORMATION:
WHAT • WHERE • WHEN • WHO • HOW

CLOSED TO HUNTING FOR BIG GAME

Legal Descriptions

BEAR - Bear Management Units

100-Purcell Mountains: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning when the Kootenai River meets the Idaho border, then northerly along said border to the Canadian border, then easterly along said border to the east shore of Lake Koocanusa, then southerly along said shore to Libby Dam and the east shore of the Kootenai River, then southerly and westerly along said shore of the Kootenai River to the Idaho border, the point of beginning.

102-North Salish Mountains: Those portions of Lincoln and Flathead Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning where the east shore of Lake Koocanusa meets the Canadian border, then southerly along said shore to Libby Dam and Kootenai River, then southerly along the east shore of the Kootenai River to USFS Road 763 (Fisher River Road), the southerly along said road to USFS Road 36 (Wolf Creek Road), then easterly and northerly along said road to USFS Road 113 (Brush Creek Divide Road), then easterly along said road to the divide between Brush Creek and Sheppard Creek, then southerly along said divide through Tepee Mtn., Sanders Mtn., Grubb Mtn., and continuing along said divide to Herrig Creek Road, then southerly and easterly along said road to USFS Road 543 (Little Bitterroot Lake Road), then southerly along said road to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to U.S. Highway 93, then northerly along said highway to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to the east shore of Lake Koocanusa, the point of beginning.

103-Whitefish Mountains: Those portions of Lincoln and Flathead Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning where U.S. Highway 93 meets the Canadian border, then southerly along said highway to State Route 40, then easterly along said route and U.S. Highway 2 to the Flathead River, then northerly along said river to the mouth of the North Fork of the Flathead River, then northerly along said river to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to U. S. Highway 93, the point of beginning.

104-Cabinet Mountains: Those portions of Lincoln and Sanders Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning where the Kootenai River meets the Idaho border, then easterly along the Kootenai River to Highway 37 at Libby, then south on said highway to U. S. Highway 2, then southerly along said highway to USFS Road 4422 (Elk Creek Road), then southerly along said road to USFS Road 516 (Fishtrap Road), then southerly along said road to the Thompson River, then southerly and westerly along said river to State Route 200, then northwesterly along said route to the Idaho border, then north along the said border to the Kootenai River, the point of beginning.

105-South Salish Mountains: Those portions of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders and Lake Counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning where Highway 37 crosses the Kootenai River at Libby, then easterly up the Kootenai River to USFS Road 763 (Fisher River Road), then southerly along said road to USFS Road 36 (Wolf Creek Road), then easterly and northerly along said road to USFS Road 113 (Brush Creek Divide Road), then easterly along said road to the divide between Brush Creek and Sheppard Creek, then southerly along said divide through Tepee Mtn., Sanders Mtn., Grubb Mtn., and continuing along said divide to the Herrig Creek Road, then southerly and easterly along said road to USFS Road 543 (Little Bitterroot Lake Road), then southerly along said road to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to U. S. Highway 93, then south along said highway to Somers Rest Area and north shore of Flathead Lake, then southerly along the west shore of Flathead Lake to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then west and south along said boundary to State Route 200, then west along said route to the Clarks Fork River, then west along said route to the Thompson River, then northerly along said river to USFS Road 516 (Fishtrap Road), then northerly along said road to USFS Road 4422 ((Elk Creek Road), then northerly along said road to U. S. Highway 2, then northerly along said highway to Highway 37 at Libby, then north on said highway to the Kootenai River, the point of beginning.

106-Mission-Swan-Flathead Ranges: Those portions of Lake, Flathead and Missoula Counties lying with the following described boundary: Beginning at Somers Rest Area and U. S. Highway 93 on the northwest shore of Flathead Lake, then north along said highway to Highway 40, then east along said highway to the Flathead River, then northerly along said river to the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, then easterly up the said river to Bear Creek, then easterly up said creek to the Continental Divide at Marias Pass, then southerly along said divide to Big Lodge Mountain and USFS Trail 179 (Lodgepole Creek Trail), then down said trail to USFS Trail 154 (Morrison Creek Trail), then south on said trail to USFS Trail 155, then westerly along said trail to USFS Trail 81 (Miners Creek Trail), then southerly on said trail to USFS Trail 43 near Whitcomb Peak, then southeasterly on said trail to USFS Trail 83, then easterly along said trail to USFS Trail 89 (Silvertip Creek Trail), then southerly along said trail to Mid Mountain and USFS Trail 103, the down said trail to the mouth of Mid Creek and across the South Fork of the Flathead, up the main drainage to USFS Trail 107 at the south side of Sarah Peak, then south on said trail to USFS Trail 226, then westerly on said trail to USFS Trail 218, then westerly along said trail to Inspiration Point, then south along the Swan Divide to the Clearwater-Swan Divide (Lolo National Forest boundary) at Wolverine Peak, then southwesterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then northerly along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north and west along said shore to Somers Rest Area and U. S. Highway 93, the point of beginning.

107-Bob Marshall Wilderness: Those portions of Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Missoula and Powell Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning on the Continental Divide at Big Lodge Mtn. and USFS Trail 179 (Lodgepole Creek Trail), then down said trail to USFS Trail 154 (Morrison Creek Trail), then south on said trail to USFS Trail 155, then westerly along said trail to USFS Trail 81 (Miner Creek Trail), then southerly on said trail to USFS Trail 43 near Whitcomb Peak, then southeasterly along said trail to USFS Trail 83, then easterly along said trail to USFS Trail 89 (Silvertip Creek Trail), then southerly along said trial to Mid Mountain and USFS Trail 103, then down said trail to the mouth of Mid Creek and across the South Fork of the Flathead, up the main drainage to USFS Trail 107 at the south side of Sarah Peak, then south on said trail to USFS Trail 226, then westerly on said trail to USFS Trail 218, then westerly along said trail to Inspiration Point, then south along the Swan Divide to Wolverine Peak and the Flathead-Lolo National Forest boundary, then south and east along said boundary to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide and Observation Point, then north along Continental Divide to Big Lodge Mountain, the point of beginning.

108-Lower Clark Fork: Those portions of Missoula, Mineral and Sanders Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lolo and the junction of U. S. Highway 93 and U. S. Highway 12, then westerly along U. S. Highway 12 to Lolo Pass and the Montana-Idaho border, then northwesterly along said border, crossing Interstate 90 at Lookout Pass and continuing along said border northwesterly to State Route 200, then southeasterly along said route to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then southeasterly along said boundary to U. S. Highway 93 near Evaro, then south along said highway to Interstate 90, then westerly along said interstate to the first interstate bridge over the Clark Fork River, then easterly along said river to Harpers Bridge and County Road 30 (Big Flat Road), then southerly along said road to U. S. Highway 93, then southerly along said highway to Lolo, the point of beginning.

216-Sapphire-Flint Creek: Those portions of Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell and Deer Lodge counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lolo, then north along U. S. Highway 93 to its intersection with Blue Mountain Road, then northwesterly along said road to Big Flat Road, then northerly along said road to Harper's Bridge across the Clark Fork River, then northwesterly down the west bank of said river to the first Interstate 90 bridge west of the Ninemile Interchange, then southeasterly along Interstate 90 to its intersection with State Route 1 east of Anaconda, then west along said route to its junction with State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then in a southwesterly direction along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly along said border to U. S. Highway 93 at Lost Trail Pass, then north along said highway to Lolo, the point of beginning.

240-West Bitterroot: Those portions of Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lolo, then south on U. S. Highway 93 to the Montana-Idaho border at Lost Trail Pass, then in a southwesterly and northerly direction along the Montana-Idaho border to U. S. Highway 12 at Lolo Pass, then easterly along said highway to Lolo, the point of beginning.

280-Upper Blackfoot: Those portions of Missoula, Powell and Lewis and Clark Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 83 and State Route 200 (Clearwater Junction), then in an easterly direction along State Route 200 to the Continental Divide at Rogers Pass, then northwest along said divide to Triple Divide Peak and the Flathead-Blackfoot Divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Wolverine Peak and the Swan-Clearwater River Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to State Route 83, then south along said route to its junction with State Route 200 (Clearwater Junction), the point of beginning.

290-Lower Blackfoot-Garnet Range: Those portions of Missoula, Granite and Powell Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Missoula, then northwest along Interstate 90 to U. S. Highway 93, then north along said highway to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary near Evaro, then north and east along said boundary to the Swan-Clearwater River Divide and USFS Trail 308, then northeasterly along said trail and divide to State Route 83, then south along said route to its junction with State Route 200 at Clearwater Junction, then easterly along said route to its junction with State Route 141, then southeast along said route to its junction with U. S. Highway 12 at Avon, then west along said highway to its junction with Interstate 90 at Garrison, then northwest along said interstate to Missoula, the point of beginning.

300-Helena - North: Those portions of Lewis and Clark and Powell Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U. S. Highway 12 and Interstate 15 east of Helena, then easterly along U. S. Highway 12 to State Route 284 (Canyon Ferry Road), then northeast along said road to Canyon Ferry Dam and the Missouri River, then northerly along the west bank of the Missouri River (west shore of Hauser and Holter Lakes) to Interstate 15, then south along said interstate to U. S. Highway 287, the northerly along said highway to State Route 200, then southwesterly along said route to State Route 141, then southerly along said route to Avon and U. S. Highway 12, then easterly along said highway to Interstate 15 east of Helena, the point of beginning.

301-Helena - South: Those portions of Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Silverbow, Powell and Broadwater Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U. S. Highway 12 and Interstate 15 east of Helena, then easterly along Highway 12 to State Route 284, then north along said route to Canyon Ferry Dam, then south along the east shore of Canyon Ferry Lake and the Missouri River to the bridge and U. S. Highway 287 north of Townsend, then south along said highway to the bridge near Toston and the Missouri River, then south along the Missouri River to the Jefferson River, then southwest along the Jefferson River to the bridge near Three Forks and Interstate 90, then westerly along said interstate to Garrison and U. S. Highway 12, then easterly along said highway to its junction with Interstate 15 east of Helena, the point of beginning.

Legal Descriptions

316-Big Hole: Those portions of Silverbow, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, and Madison Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Dillon, then southerly on Interstate 15 to its junction with State Route 324 at Clark Canyon Dam, then westerly along said route to its junction with Medicine Lodge-Big Sheep Road, then southerly along said road to the Nicholia Deadman Road (Forest Development Road 9511 and 9512), then southeasterly along said road to the Montana-Idaho border at Medicine Lodge Pass (Old Bannock Pass), then southerly and northwesterly along said border and the Continental Divide, to Lost Trail Pass (where the Beaverhead County line intersects the Montana-Idaho border), follow the Continental Divide northerly and northeasterly as it follows the Beaverhead and Deer Lodge County lines, then continue along Continental Divide to Mt. Evans and Grassy Mtn. to its intersection with Route 274, then northerly along said route to State Route 1, then easterly along said route to Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to Interstate 15, then southerly on said interstate to Dillon, the point of beginning.

317-Ruby-Centennial: Those portions of Silverbow, Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson Counties lying within the following boundary: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Interstate 15 near Rocker (west of Butte), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 324 at Clark Canyon Dam, then westerly along said route to the Medicine Lodge-Big Sheep Road, then southerly along said road to its junction with the Nicholia-Deadman Road(Forest Development Road 9511 and 9512), then southerly and southeasterly along said road to the Montana-Idaho border at Medicine Lodge Pass (Old Bannock Pass), then northeasterly along said border to its junction with Route 87 at Reynolds Pass, then northerly along said route to its junction with U. S. Highway 287, then northerly on said highway to its junction with Interstate 90 near Three Forks, then westerly along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 15, the point of beginning.

319-Bridger Mountains: Those portions of Gallatin, Park, and Meagher Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the intersection of Interstate 90 and the Jefferson River, by Three Forks, then northerly down the Jefferson River to the headwaters of the Missouri River, then northerly down said river to Lombard, then easterly and northerly on Sixteen Mile Creek to Ringling, then southerly on U. S. Highway 89 to its junction with Interstate 90, then westerly along said interstate to its intersection with the Jefferson River, the point of beginning.

341-Madison-Yellowstone-Gallatin: Those portions of Gallatin, Madison, Park, Carbon and Sweetgrass Counties lying within the following boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Montana-Wyoming border and the Custer-Gallatin National Forest boundary, southeast of Albino Lake, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stillwater County Line, then west along said line to the Custer-Gallatin National Forest boundary near Timberline Mountains, then northerly along said boundary to the Slough Creek-Boulder River Divide, near Columbine Pass, then southwesterly along the Boulder River-Slough Creek Divide and northeasterly along the Boulder River-Buffalo Fork Divide and the Hellroaring Creek-Boulder River Divide, to the Hellroaring-Mill Creek Divide, near Crow Mountain, then northerly along the Mill Creek-Boulder River Divide to Mt. Cowen, then northerly along the Yellowstone River-West Boulder River Divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then northerly down Mission Creek to Interstate 90 east of Livingston, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its intersection with U. S. Highway 287 by Three Forks, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to the Montana-Idaho border (Continental Divide), then easterly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Montana-Wyoming border west of Silver Gate, then easterly along said border to the Custer Gallatin National Forest Boundary, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Gallatin closed area boundary is described on page 37.

411-Snowies Complex: Those portions of Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Musselshell, Golden Valley and Wheatland Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Stanford at the intersection of U. S. Highways 80 and 87, then northerly along U. S. Highway 80 to its intersection with U. S. Highway 81, then easterly along U. S. Highway 81 to Denton and approximately one mile further east to its junction with Bear Springs County Road, then north and east along said road, across the Judith River at the Anderson Bridge to Winifred and its intersection with Route 236, then south along said route to Hilger and its intersection with U. S. Highway 191, the east along said highway to its intersection with Route 19 at Bohemian Corner, then south along said route to U. S. Highway 87 near Grassrange, then east along said highway (State Route 200) to its intersection with Route 244 at Winnett, then southwest along said route to its intersection with U. S. Highway 87, then south along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Roundup, then west along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 191 near Harlowton, then north along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 87 (State Route 200) at Eddies Corner, then west along said highway to Stanford and its intersection with U. S. Highway 80, the point of beginning.

420-Little Belts/Castle Mountains: Those portions of Cascade, Judith Basin, Meagher, Wheatland and Fergus Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at White Sulphur Springs, then northwest along Route 360 (Fort Logan-Millegan Road) to its junction with the Smith River, then north and downstream along the Smith River to Ulm, then at Ulm and its junction with Interstate 15 northeasterly along said interstate to Great Falls and U. S. Highway 87, then northeasterly along said highway to Fort Benton and its intersection with U. S. Highway 80, then southeasterly along said highway through Geraldine to Stanford and its junction with U. S. Highway 87, then easterly along said highway to its junction with U. S. Highway 191 at Eddies Corner, then southerly along said highway to Harlowton and its junction with U. S. Highway 12, then westerly along said highway and its intersection with State Route 294 north of Martinsdale, then southwesterly along said route to its intersection with U. S. Highway 89 north of Ringling, then northerly along said highway to White Sulphur Springs and Route 360, the point of beginning.

440-Big Belt Mountains: Those portions of Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Meagher and Gallatin Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Ulm and the junction of Interstate 15 and Route 330, then southerly along said route to the Smith River, then southerly up said river to Route 360 (Fort Logan - Milligan Road), then southerly along said route to White Sulphur Springs and U. S. Highway 89, then southerly along said highway to Ringling, then southerly and westerly along the Ringling-Maudlow Road to its junction with the Dry Creek Road and Sixteen-Mile Creek at Maudlow, then westerly along said creek to the east bank of the Missouri River, then northerly down said bank of said river to U. S. Highway 287 bridge near Toston, then north along Highway 287 to the Missouri River bridge near Toston, then north along said highway to the Missouri River bridge north of Townsend, then north along the east bank of the Missouri River and east shore of Canyon Ferry Lake to Canyon Ferry Dam, then northerly along the west bank of the Missouri River (west shore of Hauser and Holter Lakes) to Interstate 15, then south along said interstate to U. S. Highway 287, then northerly along said highway to State Route 200 at Bowman's Corner, then east along said said route to Simms, then south along the county road to Cascade and Interstate 15, then northeasterly along said interstate to Ulm, the point of beginning.

450-Rocky Mountain East Front: Those portions of Lewis and Clark, Teton, Pondera and Glacier Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 200 and the Continental Divide at Rogers Pass, then northerly along said divide to its junction with Glacier National Park Boundary at Summit (Marias Pass), then northeast along said boundary to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary, then southeasterly along said boundary to its junction with U. S. Highway 89, then southerly and easterly along said highway through Dupuyer, Choteau and Fairfield to County Road 431, then southerly along said road to Simms and its junction with State Route 200, then southwesterly along said route to Rogers Pass and the Continental Divide, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Sun River Preserve closed to black bear hunting.

510-Pryor Mountain: That portion of Big Horn, Carbon and Yellowstone Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 72 and the Wyoming border, then northerly along said route to US Highway 310 then northerly along said route to the south bank of the Yellowstone River near Laurel, then easterly down the south bank of the Yellowstone River to the Custer-Melstone bridge, then south along the Custer-Melstone Road to Interstate 94, then east along said road to State Route 47, then south along said route to Interstate 90 near Hardin, then east along said road to the Crow Indian Reservation Boundary, then westerly, then southerly, then easterly along said boundary to the west shore of Yellowtail Reservoir (Bighorn Lake), then southerly along the west shore of said reservoir to theMontana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to State Route 72, the point of beginning.

520-Beartooth Face: Those portions of Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Big Timber, then east along Interstate 90 to Laurel, then southerly along U. S. Highway 212 to its intersection with U. S. Highway 310 at Rockvale, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Route 72 about one mile south of Bridger, then southerly along Route 72 to the Montana-Wyoming border, then westerly along said border to the Custer-Gallatin National Forest boundary southeast of Albino Lake, then northerly and westerly along the said boundary to the Park-Stillwater County line then north and west along said line to the Custer-Gallatin National Forest Boundary near Timberline Mountain, then northerly along said boundary to the Slough Creek-Boulder River Divide near Columbine Pass, then southwesterly along said divide and northwesterly along the Boulder River-Buffalo Fork Divide through Boulder Pass, then northwest along the Hellroaring Creek-Boulder River Divide past Crow Mountain, then north and west along the Boulder-River-Mill Creek Divide to Mt. Cowan, then north along the Yellowstone River-West Boulder River Divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down said river to U. S. Highway 191, then south along said highway to Interstate 90 at Big Timber, the point of beginning.

580-Crazy Mountain: Those portions of Big Horn, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and US Highway 89 east of Livingston, then northerly along US Highway 89 to State Route 294, then northeasterly along said route to its junction with US Highway 12, then easterly along said highway to Melstone, then southeast along the Melstone-Custer road to the Yellowstone River, then westerly along the south bank of said river to US Highway 212, then north on said highway to Interstate 90, then west along said interstate to US Highway 89, the point of beginning.

Legal Descriptions

AREAS CLOSED OR LIMITED TO HUNTING METHODS FOR BIG GAME

Bitterroot-Clark Fork Archery District: Refer to legal description of deer-elk district 260.

Brinkman Game Preserve: The S1/2 Section 7, and E1/2, NE1/4 Section 7, and S1/2 Section 8, and NW1/4 Section 8, S1/2 Section 9, S1/2 and E1/2, NE 1/4 Section 10. All of sections 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36; all in T29N, R7E, M.P.M. Liberty County.

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area: Closed to hunting of big game except as designated under hunting regulations. Section 28 and 33, and W 1/2 of W 1/2 Section 34, T8N, R2E, Sections 4, 8, W1/2 and W1/2 of the E1/2 Section 9, NW1/4 Section 16, Sections 17, 18, 19, 20 and N1/2 Section 30, T7N, R2E, E1/2 of E1/2 Section 11, Section 12, E1/2 of NW1/4 and E1/2 Section 13 and E1/2 of E1/2 Section 24, T7N, R1E.

C.M.Russell National Wildlife Refuge (Portions): Refer to legal descriptions under deer districts 621, 632 and 650 and antelope district 620, 630 and 650.

Cooke City Moose Closure: Refer to legal descriptions under moose district 322.

Grant Kohrs Ranch near Deer Lodge: Closed to all hunting.

Gallatin Closed Area: Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Buffalo Horn Creek and the Gallatin River, then up said river to Snowflake Springs and the toe of Snowflake Ridge, then up said ridge in a southerly direction and along a posted boundary and the Sage Creek-Monument Creek divide, and along the Sage Creek-Snowslide Creek divide and the Sage Creek-Bacon Rind Creek divide to the Gallatin-Madison Rivers divide at Redstreak Peak, then in a southeasterly direction along the Gallatin-Madison divide to Yellowstone National Park boundary, then in a northerly direction along said boundary to USFS Trail 57 at Dailey Pass, then in a northwesterly direction along said trail to the headwaters of the South Fork of Buffalo Horn Creek, then down said fork to a posted line that goes along the south side of Cow Flats to its intersection with the Buffalo Horn Creek, then down said creek to the Gallatin River, the point of beginning.

Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve: Beginning in Section 2, T12N, R3W at the southeast corner of Upper Holter Lake, then proceeding westerly along the northern shoreline of Upper Holter Lake in the Gates of the Mountains area located in Lewis and Clark County, then northerly along Stoney Point Beacon Road, then northerly along the powerline to said beacon, then along Bulldozer Road to the point of the ridge in Section 23, T13 N, R3W, then northerly to the Missouri River, then easterly across said river and lake to the U. S. Forest Service boundary to the wilderness boundary, then south along wilderness boundary to the southeast corner of Section 1, T12N, R3W, then west back to Upper Holter Lake, the point of beginning. Intending hereby to include in said game preserve all the territory adjacent of the Gates of the Mountains area, shall be called and known as the Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve.

Green Meadow Game Preserve: Beginning at a point in the SE1/4 Section 13 where the Silver Road runs north, then following said road through Section 13 and continuing through Section 12 to a point in the northeast portion where the Scratch Gravel Road runs due west, then following due west along the Scratch Gravel Road until it crosses the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks, then continuing in a westerly direction to the section line between Sections 12 and 11, then south to the quarter corner on the section line between Sections 11 and 12, then due west through the center of Section 11, to the west boundary of Section 11, then south along the boundary line of Section 11 and 14, continuing south to the south boundary line of Section 14, then east along the south boundary of Section 14 and 13, to the point of beginning.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir: The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in Lewis and Clark County of the Helena Valley as posted.

Helmville-Ovando Archery District: Refer to legal description of deer-elk district 290.

Lake Bowdoin Migratory Waterfowl Refuge: Closed to hunting of big game.

Lincoln Archery District: Refer to legal description of deer-elk district 284.

Lincoln Closed Area: Section 24, T14N, R9W, shall be closed to big game hunting. This comprises the area around the town of Lincoln.

Lone Pine Game Preserve: Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 19, T28N, R21W, following the north boundary of Section 19 in a westerly direction for 1 mile; then continuing in a northerly and westerly direction following the Kalispell-Foy's Lake highway to Foy's Lake; then in a southeasterly direction following the highway to the section line between Sections 25 and 26, T28N and R21W; then in a southerly direction following the Foy's Lake-Patrick Creek highway to where said highway turns in a southeasterly direction following said highway to a point in Section 6, T27N, R21W; then in an easterly direction following the Kalispell-Patrick Creek highway to a point in Section 5, T27N, R21W, following the Kalispell-Patrick Creek highway, to the point of beginning.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Portions open to big game hunting.

Milk River Wildlife Management Area: Hunting by archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader only as posted and as described under current regulations.

McLean Game Preserve: SW1/4, NE1/4, S1/2, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 5, T28N, R3W; lots 4, 5, 6, 7, SE1/4, S1/2 NE1/4, SE1/4, NW1/4, E1/2, NE1/4, SE1/4, NW1/4, E1/2, SW1/4 Section 6, T28, R3W; N1/2, NE1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 lot 1, Section 7, T28, R3Wt; NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 8, T28, R3W; lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Section 1, T28, R4W, S1/2, N1/2 Section 1, T28, R4W; S1/2, SE1/4 Section 35, T29, R4W, Pondera County.

Old Steel Bridge: That portion of Hunting District 170 in Flathead County lying in Sections 9, 10, 15 and 16 of T28N, R21W, within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the Old Steel Bridge on the Flathead River, then following the county road in a westerly direction to the Stillwater River, then down the east bank of said river to its confluence with the Flathead River, then up the west bank of the Flathead River to the Old Steel Bridge, the point of beginning.

Prison Ranch (Portion of): Portion as posted on the west side of the City of Deer Lodge.

Rookery Wildlife Management Area (As Posted): Hunting by archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader only as posted and as described under current regulations.

Seeley Lake Game Preserve: That portion of Missoula County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at a point where U. S. Forest Service land and private land meet next to Boy Scout Road in Section 20, T17N, R15W, then east on the boundary between U. S. Forest Service and private land, then north on same boundary to the section line between Sections 17 and 20, then east on said section line and east on north line of Section 21, T17N, R15W to State Route 83, then south on Star Route 83 to Riverview Drive in Section 3, T16N, R15W, then west on Riverview Drive to Snowmass Drive in Section 9, T16N, R15W, then north on Snowmass Drive to section line between Sections 4 and 5, T16N, R15W, then north on said section line to Clearwater River, then north along west shore of Clearwater River to Boy Scout Road in Section 33, T17N, R15W, then west and north on said road to where U. S. Forest Service land and private land meet next to Boy Scout Road in Section 20, T17N, R15W, the point of beginning.

Stillwater Game Preserve: Starting at a point where East Reserve Drive and the Flathead River join between Sections 26 and 35, T29N, R21W, then in a westerly direction along the south boundary of Reserve Drive approximately 2 3/4 miles to the east bank of the Whitefish River, then southerly along said bank to its confluence with the Stillwater River, then up the west bank of said river to the east-west centerline of Section 6, T28 N, R21W, then west on this centerline to Highway 93, then southerly along said highway to the Kalispell city limits, then along the east Kalispell city limits to the Old Steel Bridge county road to Woodland Park, then in an easterly direction along the county road to the Flathead River at the Old Steel Bridge, then northerly up the west bank of the Flathead river, to the point of beginning.

Sun River Game Preserve: Beginning at a point on the crest of the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, due south of the head or source of the South Fork of the Sun River, in what will be, when surveyed, Section 8, T18N of R10W, Montana meridian; then due north from the crest of the Continental Divide to the head of the south fork of the Sun River; then northerly along the east bank of the South Fork of the Sun River (the eastern boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to its confluence with the North Fork of the Sun River; then northerly along the east bank of the North Fork of the Sun River (the eastern boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to its head or source; then due north to the crest of the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains; then along said crest southwesterly and southerly (the western boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to the place of beginning. Intending hereby to include in said game preserve all that territory lying between the South Fork of the Sun River and the North Fork of the Sun River on the east and the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains on the west.

Teton-Spring Creek Bird Preserve: All of Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15, SW corner of S12W of the Truchot Road and all of S13 except the northern 1/4 of Section 13 east of Truchot Road, T24N, R5W.

The department may open all or part of the Teton-Spring Creek Bird Preserve for a special archery season in accordance with 87-1-304 and 87 -2-708.

Indian Reservations: Unless otherwise provided between the State of Montana and a Tribal Government, big game hunting privileges on Indian Reservations are limited to tribal members only. For questions, contact the Tribal Government office.

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission these seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 2000 black bear hunting seasons under the authority to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on February 4, 2000, Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.